

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Toccoa Falls College
Toccoa, Georgia
March 26, 2015

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, March 26, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. The following members were present:

Executive Committee Present

Sam Norton, Chairman
Dean Scarborough, Vice Chairman
George Wangemann, Secretary
Bill Chafin
Jim Conley
Leslie George
Lamar Paris

GMRC Staff Present

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant
Becky Sievers, Finance Director
Kevin Tallant, GMRC Attorney

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 29, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Leslie George, seconded by Jim Conley, and motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that he and several staff members had recently attended the Appalachian Regional Commission conference in Washington. ARC celebrated their 50th Anniversary. During this time, The Georgia Mountains region has received \$66.5M in grant funds. All of the GMRC region is 100% ARC area but Forsyth County is not eligible ARC funds.

Becky Sievers and the accounting staff have been training for three weeks on the new accounting software.

John Phillips, Workforce Development Director, spoke to the Union County Rotary about the GMRC.

The City/County Managers meeting will be held Wednesday, April 1 in Sky Valley. This is a good time to get together and share what is going on in their region. City of Sky Valley has agreed to let any attendees play golf that day for \$20.

The Executive Committee was informed that there were five checks written that exceeded \$25,000 during the months of February and March.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to Travel Policy

Mr. Lewis stated that the Travel Policy that the Council previously approved was then sent to GMA for them to make sure it is compliance with their rules. There was one paragraph on page 14 of the document that we were informed needed to be removed. This paragraph stated that if an employee drove their personal vehicle on company business, the RC provided full liability coverage and personal immunity for the employee for damages and injuries the employee may cause to others. This paragraph needs to be removed because the RC does not cover personal vehicles.

Chairman Norton referred to a letter sent by Department of Audit and Accounts (DOAA) stating that if the General Assembly or other funding agencies told us to adopt the new Travel Policy, then the RC would have to do so. Since this has not happened why can't the RC discard the new Policy that the Council approved and go back to the previous rules for travel which had previously worked great. After adopting the new Policy the RC purchased a vehicle for the Executive Director to drive. Executive Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing back to the old procedures.

Leslie George made a recommendation to put the new Travel Policy in a file in case we need it at a later date and go back to the old Travel Policy with the exception that the Executive Director would continue to drive the fleet vehicle that was assigned to him. Jim Conley seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

WD Monthly Vehicle Rental

Workforce Development rents vehicles for their employees to drive. About two months ago, Danny and Becky discussed renting a vehicle by the month for the WD employees to drive instead of having to rent and pick up vehicles on a daily basis. The RC has five fleet vehicles and most days some of these cars are not driven. It has been suggested that WD rent a vehicle from the RC instead of paying Enterprise approximately \$900 a month. WD checked with the State Office to see if this was allowable and they said it would be. The RC would pay for the insurance and maintenance for the vehicle. Mr. Lewis recommended that starting April 1st that the RC would rent WD one vehicle to use. Chairman Norton stated that since this was not new money or new expense, he did not feel that it had to be taken before the Council. Executive Committee agreed to give it a try. Mr. Lewis asked that the money from the vehicle rental be placed in the vehicle fund which is used to purchase new vehicles.

RFP Services

RFP were sent out for Audit services and five RFPs were received. The staff opened the RFPs and scored the top three. The Finance Committee met and have reviewed each document. Danny, Becky, and Peggy have reviewed and scored the top three RFPs. The Executive Committee discussed at length the experiences and work relations of each firm since each firm has done work for some of our cities/counties or other RCs. The Committee stated that they did not necessarily want to go with the cheapest but wanted to go with the best firm. Three of the firms are located in Macon and two are located in Gainesville.

Dean Scarborough made a motion to go with Rushton and Associates for three individual one year contracts. Motion was seconded by George Wangemann. Motion passed unanimously. Rushton and Associates received high recommendations and are located in Gainesville. The RC will be saving approximately \$2,000 in the three year period.

FY16 Budget

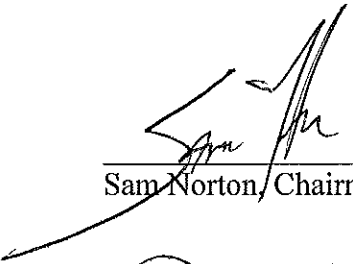
The FY16 Budget was previously sent to the Executive Committee for their review. This Budget includes a 3% across the board raise. The Executive Committee had reviewed it and recommends that the FY16 Budget be sent to the Council for their review. Motion was made by Dean Scarborough, seconded Lamar Paris and motion carried unanimously.

Ethics Board Appointments

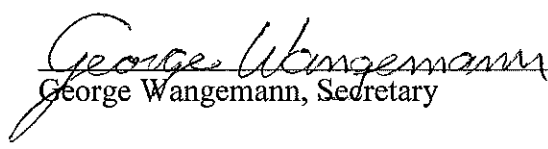
Chairman Norton stated that the Ethics Policy calls for an Ethics Board which would consist of three residents of the Georgia Mountains region. One shall be appointed by the GMRC Council Chairman; one shall be appointed by the GMRC Council; and the third shall be appointed by the GMRC Chairman with the approval of the Council. Chairman Norton would like to appoint Joel Cordle from Dahlonga and Bill Stewart from Royston. The third appointment will be made by the Council. These appointments do not have to be Council Members. The third appointment which will come from the Council was tabled until next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was recessed to the Council Meeting at 5:45 pm.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary